

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

We Need To Hear More QSOs Like This One!

By Ron Bailey, AA4S

The other rainy Wednesday I was busily engaged in flossing Fido's molars and monitoring '18 when I heard a young voice say, "This is Kilo India Four Juliet Charley Yankee." There was no response, as most of the guys were at the weekly luncheon.

Well, even though I knew the lint filter on the clothes dryer was in desperate need of cleaning, I dropped what I was doing and called in with "KI4JCY this is Alpha Alpha Four Sierra, Ron in Shelby."

The voice on the other end said, "This is Susan, I'm 13 years old and I'm at the Discovery Place in Charlotte." During our conversation I learned she had just passed her test at the Charlotte Hamfest and was exercising her new call. After a few transmissions I said I had to go QRT to dust my station equipment because I knew if I didn't, one small spark would have made the Chicago Fire look like a controlled burn!

I continued to monitor, however, and heard Susan strike up a QSO with Brian, N8WRL. After they exchanged the usual pleasantries, Brian asked Susan if she

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
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W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Assoc. Cluster Mgr.
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

intended to learn CW and pursue low band operation, perhaps, on the 40 or 80 meter bands. I shrank back awaiting what I figured would be the normal response these days such as, "No, I think I'll just be a 'Shack on the Belt' ham and chit-chat with my friends on the local repeater."

But what I heard was, "Well, I also passed the code test this weekend and I'm studying for my General Class license. WE CAN GO TO 80 METER CW RIGHT NOW, IF YOU WANT!"

How pleased I was to hear that reply. Congratulations, Susan, and do you mind if I call you next June? You see, we do this thing called Field Day

(Editor's Note: I was in Discovery Place that Wednesday morning, and I am happy to say I met Susan. I met her several weeks before in that same radio room while she was boning up for the upcoming license test. As I drove from Discovery Place I worked her on the 146.94 repeater and heard her work several other hams. EVERYONE praised her for her accomplishment. So much for the naysayers who keep harping on how difficult it is to raise a QSO on a repeater unless you're a "regular". -K8YC)

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA (11 mi. NE of Mooresville)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.075 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.tzo.com	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Shoney's, 355 Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC (704-525-4395)	

The Toolbox

By Don Daso, K4ZA

(Reprinted with permission of Potomac Valley Radio Club.)

On a recent trip to Maryland's Eastern Shore, a long-time reader of the PVRC newsletter told me how much he enjoyed reading this little column—that he especially liked my suggestion of trying the “4-in-1” screwdriver, instead of carrying 4-5 separate items in his toolbag. I was pleased, and inspired to keep on contributing. Indeed, further questions and comments regarding the climbing gear in the Tower Works toolbox warrant some commentary.

Why climbing gear, anyway? Primarily because it's lightweight and designed to safely hold or carry human loads, so safety factor in helping ferry your antenna or rotator atop the tower is significant.

The primary tool, of course, is the CARABINER. Carabiners are lightweight, metal links (usually aluminum) that can be closed and opened quickly and easily. Climbers, parasail gliders, spelunkers, as well as rescue personnel, use them in a wide variety of tasks. They come in a range of styles, sizes and designs. For a good reference and starting point, look at: <http://www.uhartrescue.com/carabiners2.html>

In typical climbing use, carabiners have both a connecting and a safety function. Connecting to a rope, connecting a rope to another piece of gear or to a protection piece, and so forth, are primary uses. They must with-

stand extreme forces, as a climber's life often depends on them, so it's probably safe to clip your toolbag to the tower using one. As hams, we'll be more interested in the convenience factor—I never rely on a carbiner for any protective use.

But, as in climbing, different activities and tasks require different kinds of carabiners. Characteristics like shape, gate-type, strength, material, weight and size will determine the right type of carabiner for each task and budget. In choosing carabiners, simply look at the intended use first. If you can, buy a few carabiners of different style to see which you prefer. If your budget is restricted, the simple designs (oval, non-locking) will probably cover most of your needs, although size can be an issue. The standard size carabiners will not fit larger-legged tower, for instance, like AB-105. For that, you'll shift to the larger, rescue-work-oriented types.

Knowing how to clip is extremely important. Basically, the bottom gate should always face away from the direction you are working. Second, your rope should never run across the carabiner's gate. And when clipping, the rope must end up running out of the carabiner toward the climber. Finally, a carabiner must rest evenly against some support; uneven pressure on part of the carabiner will reduce its strength. (Again, in normal tower work, this isn't an issue—most of our towers are not structured among rocks, etc.)

Rescue pullies are the next consideration. These aluminum-bodied gadgets are ideal for tower work. They come in a variety of sizes, with ultra-smooth bearings, and best of all, rotate apart so that they can be put on to a line at any point along its length. I never climb without at least one. I also always use one at the base of the tower (with a swivel), allowing ground crew personnel to back away from the tower and be able to look up without worrying whether or not the rope is going to snag on the ground.

Finally, a few thoughts on slings. These are typically loops of nylon, sewn together. The “norm” or standard is 25mm sewn slings, manufactured from French-made *Faure-roux* webbing. These general-purpose slings have impressive strength, typically a rating of 25 kN and an actual strength usually over 30 kN. (4000 lbs equals 17.8 kN. When the webbing is made into a sling and

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The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to “The Amateur's Code” as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$30 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$15 otherwise, payable each January. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/
Treasurer: Jim Miller, K4SQR
11600 Hilda Court
Charlotte, NC 28226

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/
Treasurer at the above address or via email at: k4sqr@juno.com.

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tested, a strength of around 25-30 kN can be obtained.) Generally, a particular length of sling is made a certain color, to assist in distinguishing different lengths. (I like the 4-foot length, which is blue, attached to the boom to hoist beams, for instance, although I have a variety of them.) The real "magic" of the sling is that it's like that silly kid's toy, the Chinese finger puzzle—where the tighter or harder you pulled, the tighter and harder the little paper tube gripped your fingers. Relaxing your hands made the paper loose, and you could remove your fingers. Slings work the same way. A few wraps, and you can hoist a mast or other vertical member without the hassle of bolting on a muffler clamp or other device on the end. I recently used one to secure and tug several thousand feet of Heliac (7/8-inch and 1-5/8-inch) through the muddy trenches at K4VV's new station, without once losing the cable end! Some folks wonder about the safety and security of them, or why you can't use rope to do the same thing, and it's quality that uniquely qualifies the webbing—rope slips.

If you're familiar with cranes, you've seen difference versions of these climbing tools in use. "Open slings" are a length of webbing with a small loop at each end. "Closed slings" are the standard circular slings with a stitched join. These are usually heavier and wider material, and are designed for lifting dead weights. The configurations are usually different as well. The important point to remember about each type is that the surface around which the sling is secured is critical to safety. If any sling is worked around a rough surface, a lower strength than normal for the webbing will be obtained. And, a square edge or threaded bar, for example, will drastically reduce any webbing's strength.

I enjoy the speed and ease of use of these climbing accessories—that's why they're in my toolbox. What's in your toolbox?? —**K4ZA**

2005 NC QSO PARTY REPORT

By Ron Bailey, AA4S/m

Well, another suicidal NCQP run through 15 counties is in the log. Swore I wouldn't do that again; but it was fun. True to my motto of "Nothing in moderation" I loaded 2 Icom 706MKIIGs, 7 antennas, spare batteries (thanks, W4YN), and other paraphernalia into/onto the Blazer once again and ran full bore for the 10 hours of the contest stopping only to fill the IV bottle.

My score of 165,896 points was about 10% higher than last year with 673 QSOs and 88 multipliers (vs. 680 and 78 last year) thanks to the much-appreciated support from NC4CQ/m (W4GRW & K4ATM), W4WNT/m, K4MD, K4CEB, AA4NN, K4MQG, KA4WUR, K4DGJ, KI4YV, K4GHS, WA4DOU, and the crew at W4DXA (Discovery Place). Looks as if you've got something started, Ted!

This year's run started in Cherokee County and ended up in Watauga County in what turned out to be at least 9 inches of snow by Monday morning!. Had to rent a motel room in Blowing Rock Sunday night (\$75 shot) because Rt. 321 was closed and I wasn't able to get home. Monday's trip home took almost 4 hours vs. the normal 90 minutes, but I got to run Watauga and Caldwell on 14.336 plus Wilkes and Catawba on 10.114 on the County Hunter's Nets along the way.

Disclaimer: I, hereby, affirm that at no time have I, either knowingly or unknowingly, used steroids or other performance enhancing drugs. Neither was my key paddle corked!

Once again thanks to everyone for their enthusiasm and support. Can't wait till next year ... Very 73, Ron.

(For those fellows and gals who don't really know Ron and who might not understand the humor in his "disclaimer", Ron is an active coach in the youth baseball program in Shelby and is a longtime lover of the game of baseball. I doubt he enjoyed watching the congressional hearings on the use of drugs in major league baseball. Note: A quick check with Henry Heidtmann indicated that the Official NCQP results will probably be out in the third week of May. —The Editor)

2005 Hamfest Revisited

(This is a recap of Bernie McClenny's forum comments from the Charlotte Hamfest. The short publishing cycle following the event prevented reporting his comments last month. —The Editor)

Many of you are familiar with Bernie as the publisher of "The Daily DX", a daily newsletter, delivered via email, on happenings in the DX world. Who is this guy who breathes DXing? The world of DXing started for Bernie in early 1976 shortly after his father obtained his Amateur Radio license. It was less than a year later when this 13 year old boy obtained his Novice license, WB3JRU. Through the 80's and 90's this DXer had many changes in his personal, professional and Amateur Radio life as he matured. By the late 90's he left the work force to chase his childhood dreams of being a DX editor. Bernie started The Daily DX in the spring of 1997. Just over a year later he graciously accepted the roll of DX editor for QST's "How's DX?". Bernie is also the editor of The Weekly DX. In 1998 he began to take up DXpeditioning with stops including A61AJ, E44DX, 4W/W3UR, OH0/W3UR, AH3D and most recently 4U1UN. During his spare time he chases countries for the DXCC Challenge with over 2,900 countries worked. All countries have been worked by W3UR, who is QRV on CW, SSB and RTTY on 6-160 meters. Bernie is a member of the National Capitol DX Association and the Potomac Valley Radio Club.

For Charlotte's Hamfest, Bernie chose to speak about DXpeditions he had taken in the recent past—Johnston Island (AH3D) and the United Nations (4U1UN).

United Nations (4U1UN) The United Nations venture consisted of a 2 day operating schedule completed in late January, 2004. It was the result of several false starts planned with another person. Each time, one or another party could not make the appointed date. Even when the final date was set, Bernie's colleague could not make the trip so he took his Daughter Krista—obviously a ham like her dad—to New York City for the event. It was a trip of a lifetime for Krista, since she had never taken a train nor had she been to "The Big Apple". The Amtrak ride from their home in Maryland takes only about two hours, and they were at the station early for the quick ride across southern New Jersey to Penn Station in New York. Their choice of a deluxe hotel, chosen for its proximity to the United Nations

building, certainly introduced Krista to the more opulent side of a big city.

When Bernie and Krista arrived at UN Headquarters for their visit, they found security very tight. Even when cleared through security, they were escorted by the 4U1UN Station Manager, Mohamed, wherever they went—including the restrooms! Bernie was interested in seeing the antennas on the roof, but found that security again was so tight that even the members of the UN Radio Club had great difficulty getting permission to go to the roof without a significant amount of bureaucratic red tape. He did find out that the antennas consisted of wire antennas, the only beam antenna having long ago been removed.

Their host, Mohamed, provided Krista and Bernie an escorted tour of headquarters. They were able to see the meeting room of the UN Security Council and the General Assembly. Krista got the opportunity to listen to each of the five interpreter channels that are used when the assembly is in session. An interesting tidbit about the station callsign was offered by Mohamed. By the members of the UN Radio club, the callsign is given with the following vocal inflection, "For you, one U N".

Bernie and Krista had intended to operate on the higher bands, but propagation was quite poor during their two days on-site. Therefore, much time was spent on 40 meters. Bernie was somewhat concerned about Krista handling the pileups. She had a goodly amount of on-air time, but had never been on the receiving end of the expected pileups. Bernie watched for a while, but was soon pleased to find that Krista had a firm hand on the pileup. *(Editors note: I was aware that the operation was to happen because I was a subscriber to The Daily DX, and the day of their arrival just happened to be my day as a volunteer operator at Discovery Place. I can attest to the fact that Krista handled the pileup in a professional manner.)*

There are perhaps a dozen or more members of the UN radio club. Apparently, daily activities prevent them from being really active on the air. There aren't a lot of places in the five boroughs of New York City that one can hang an antenna, so I am sure their inability to operate regularly is not entirely their choice. Accommodating visiting operators takes personal sacrifice by the radio club members. Recall that all visitors must be es-

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corted. Therefore, the escort must take a personal day off to serve as an escort, since the activity is not considered “official business”.

When operating, Bernie found that the standard operating procedure is to take the NCDXF beacon off the air to prevent interstation interference. So, if you find that the beacon cannot be heard when you are hearing other signals from New York City, start looking around because 4U1UN is probably on the air.

Johnston Atoll (AH3D) A DXpedition to Johnston Atoll began with a telephone call from Martti Laine (OH2BH) to Bernie. It seems as if Martti held a US Extra Class callsign (AH3D) that he had never used. His “address” at the time he earned the callsign was given as Johnston Atoll because a friend had been stationed there and apparently had served as Martti’s resident agent for purposes of FCC registration. Johnston Atoll had been used for a number of years as a place to incinerate and otherwise dispose of various chemical warfare agents. The atoll was under the authority of the United States Air Force and it was imminently going to be shut down, its mission completed. So, Martti had to act fast and Bernie had only a wink of the eye to tell Martti “I’m in!”. The third operator chosen to work alongside Bernie and Martti was Pertti Simovaara, also of Finland, and an oft-found companion of Martti on DXpeditions.

Aloha Airlines had two flights a week to Johnston, leaving from Hawaii. The flights continue from Johnston to V73 and V63 on a circuit before returning to Hawaii. When you debark at Johnston, you are immediately checked by the Island Police. If your “paperwork” is not in order, you are placed back on the plane to complete the circuit. Fortunately, through the good graces of a number of people paving the way, all was in order when the three DXpeditioners landed on Johnston.

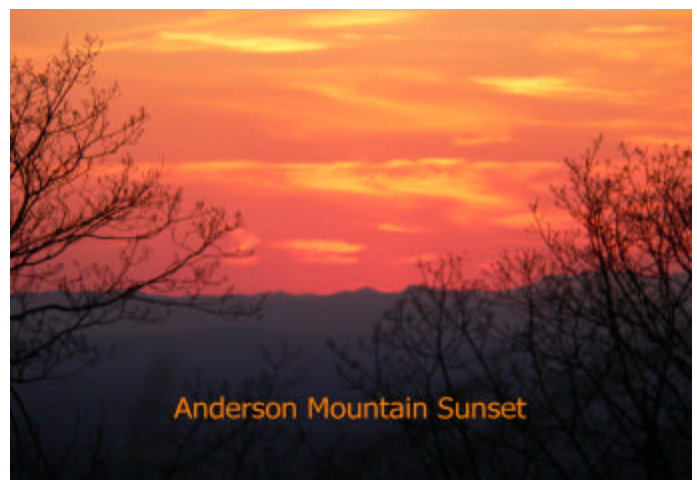
First order of business after landing was an informational meeting conducted by the police to learn the “Do’s and Don’ts” of living on this island home 718 nautical miles from Honolulu. Amateur psychologists would be interested to know that because of the isolation of this island community, anybody found to be intoxicated is immediately removed from his assignment and returned to the mainland—no questions asked, apparently to ensure harmony.

After some rest, the team assessed the antenna situation. A “cherry picker” was made available from the equipment inventory of the USAF. Several wire antennas were installed and an “armstrong” rotating system was affixed to an existing beam whose rotator had long since ceased to operate. The strategy of the team was to try to work Europe where Johnston is high on the “most wanted” list. While there were many happy Europeans, propagation did not favor as many contacts as the DXpedition team would have liked. The team was able to make a number of North American amateurs happy.

Eating was inexpensive and food servings were copious at a dining room run by a civilian contractor. The DXpedition team only ate one meal per day at a time when the bands were open to “nowhere” to ensure they were at the ready when the bands were open. A shuttle bus ran around the island about 18 hours a day so that the one mile walk for dinner in the hot sun need only be taken at the walker’s option.

The DXpedition was a success. QSL cards were handed out at Dayton in 2003 for the deserving. In a recent update received by Bernie, he was told all the equipment and buildings have been removed from Johnston as of this writing and the island is being returned to its natural state under the auspices of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

It Isn’t All About the Contest, Is It?



Here’s but one benefit of Phil Martin’s (K4ATM) and Bill Fisher’s (W4GRW) trip to the top of Anderson Mountain during the recent 2 Meter VHF Sprint Contest.

CDXAers Do Well in 2004 CQWW VHF Test

The April 2005 issue of CQ gave all of us in CDXA a chance to stand up and cheer for the success of two fellow members. This particular issue reported the results of the 2004 CQWW VHF Contest. Do you need to be told who topped the list again in the Rover Category? Yep, Ted and Itice Goldthorpe (W4VHF & K4LVV) showed all in the USA how to “rove”. Their 24,806 point total was almost exactly double that of their nearest competitor. A special feature of this year’s contest was the presentation of the Golden Galaxy Awards for excellence in various VHF contesting categories. Because of Ted and Itice’s roving performance they were given the “Wanderlust of an Airstream” award for repeatedly being champs of the rover set.

Bill Fisher, W4GRW, also earned recognition in the same contest for his fine effort. Bill appeared in fifth place in the USA in the “All Band” category. He also was cited for being 2nd in the USA for his 163 QSOs on the 2 meter band for the contest.

Ten and Twenty Years Ago....

(Extracted from the PILEUPs of ten and twenty years ago, now archived on the CDXA website.)

Twenty Years Ago:

“Uncle Henry” (N4UH) was busy publishing an article on the how’s and why’s of rhombic antennas in the March-April 1985 issue of Ham Radio Magazine.....The FCC was monitoring 3.795MHz for some malicious interference (I guess there’s little that is new as regards interference)....Several Scandinavian ops were on St. Brandon handing out QSOs....At the Charlotte Hamfest of that year, Carol Dixon, Itice Goldthorpe, Carol Denton, Suzanne Andrews, and Cathy Starnes took over the Master of Ceremonies duties from one “Mr. Goldthroat”, to the delight of those attending the Hamfest.

Ten Years Ago:

CDXAers were about to embark on a plant tour of Charlotte Pipe and Foundry....The World Wide Web was just beginning to become known to the man on the street and many interesting ham radio websites were beginning to appear. Recommended modem speeds were at least 14.4 kbps for adequate performance. Whew—fast, huh?

VU4—Andaman & Nicobar Islands 2004

Adapted from an Article by Mrs. D. Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI

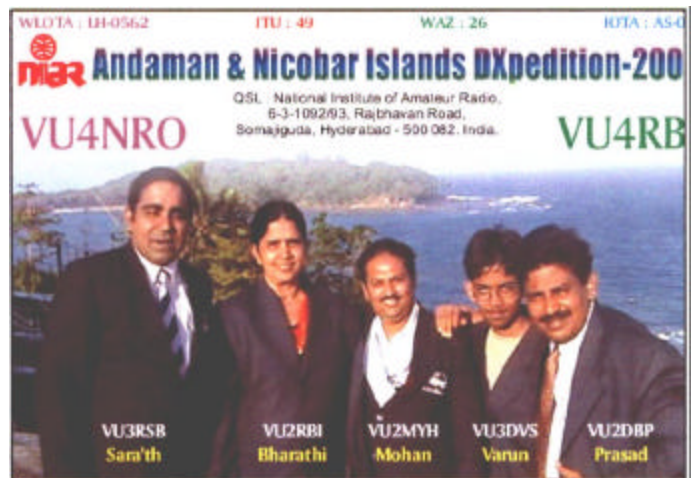
(Reprinted from the Spring 2005 INDEXA Newsletter, with permission.)

A DXpedition is a radio sport activity for ham radio operators worldwide. Hams conduct expeditions to various islands and countries with an aim to contact distant countries. Operations during these expeditions help with the study of propagation and research in wireless activity. They also allow hams to reach out to millions of people across the globe by establishing direct radio contact with as many people as possible which in turn promotes international understanding.

The Department of Telecommunications and Ministry of Information & Technology, Government of India, permitted a team of five operators to conduct an Andaman & Nicobar Islands DXpedition from December 3-31, 2004 with the special call signs of VU4RBI and VURNRO.

The team, under my leadership, consisted of :

- ◆ D.N. Prasad, VU2DBP
- ◆ S. Ram Mohan, VU2MYH
- ◆ R. Sarath Babu, VU3RSB
- ◆ D. S. Varun Sastry, VU3DVS , who was 15 years old!



The DXpedition was sponsored by the National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR), an NGO with headquarters in Hyderabad, and the Ministry of Information & Technology, Government of India.

The DXpedition was formally inaugurated by the Honor-

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able Governor of Andhra Pradesh on 25 November 2004. Team members met in the headquarters of NIAR to select the needed equipment before proceeding to Port Blair. The 500 kg. of equipment was comprised of high frequency transceivers, Yagi antennas, vertical antennas, dipole antennas, masts, amplifiers, etc.

Three members including me proceeded by air and reached Port Blair on 1 December 2004. The rest of the members and other technical assistants of NIAR came by ship from Chennai on December 2nd.

On reaching Port Blair we met with local authorities who extended complete support to the team. One station was erected in the Government Polytechnic College; the second on the hotel premises where some members were accommodated; and the third in the Science Centre.

In addition to the support extended by the local administration, the officers of the Army Signals Unit of Port Blair also extended their cooperation by sparing the technical manpower to help erect antennas and assist with local logistics.

The team operated PSK, CW, and SSB on frequencies that were in accordance with Indian rules and regulations.



The Andaman DXpedition team steals a moment to greet the camera after setting up their stations.

It was a pleasure to talk with hundreds and hundreds of radio amateurs around the globe while controlling the pileup each day of the expedition. Sometimes it was difficult to catch up with the low power operators because

the high power operators high-jacked the situation; however, I took every care to exchange reports with low power operators, including mobile operators.

I operated the radio from the early hours of December 12th to the early hours of December 26th with hardly three to four hours of sleep per day. I made about 23,000 contacts with almost all countries and, including the other team members, we made a total of about 35,000 contacts before the earthquake and associated tsunami struck our location in the wee hours of December 26th.

Tremors and Tsunami

In the early hours of December 26th while other hotel guests were fast asleep, I was continuing my DXing with the usual spirit. I was talking to an Indonesian ham when all of a sudden I felt tremors at around 6:29AM. I realized it to be an earthquake and shouted "tremors!" into the microphone. I rushed out of the room raising alarm and alerting others. All the occupants of the rooms rushed out and gathered on the lawns of the hotel building. Immediately after the tremors, my team members rushed from their shacks to my hotel and, by God's grace, we were all safe! After about half an hour, I went back to the radio shack and checked for the antenna on the rooftop. It was disturbed by the tremors and needed to be re-erected. There was no power so the hotel management put on the generator. Immediately, I went on the air and contacted hams from Thailand (HS0ZAA, Mr. John) and the mainland of India (VU2UU, Mr. Shanker from Chennai; and VU2MYL, Mrs. Rama from Hyderabad) who confirmed the tremors in their locations as well. I could guess the magnitude of the damage due to the earthquake and decided to suspend the DXpedition operations and begin emergency communications with the mainland (VU) and other people by turning the beam toward the mainland.

The telephone lines went out of order and within a few hours we learned the extent of damage from the local people. While the news of death and devastation in other parts of India was quickly transmitted around the world, the situation in Andaman and Nicobar Islands was not known. I went on broadcasting information about the situation to anyone who could hear my signals. Simultaneously, I sent my team members to the office of the Chief Secretary, Government of Andaman & Nico-

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bar Islands, to express our willingness to help the administration by establishing emergency communications. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) requested our services on December 27th and we immediately established a radio station, operated by me and VU3RSB, in the control room of the DC's office. At the request of the DC, two of our team members, VU2MYH and VU2DVO, proceeded to Car Nicobar Island on a military aircraft and established communication between Port Blair and Nicobar.



Bhathi, VU4RBI, provides emergency communications during tsunami disaster.

Humanitarian Communications

Because of the collapsed infrastructure, we handled hundreds of messages each day from the mainland and affected areas, and due to the collapsed communication infrastructure, ours was the only link for thousands of Indians and people from other countries who were worried about their friends and families in the islands. Also, our station in the control room became the centre of messages between Port Blair and Nicobar Island. Survivors in Car Nicobar were communicating with their relatives in Port Blair through our stations. Other hams of the country located on the mainland helped us relay the messages whenever there was skip between our stations in the islands. When telephone lines were restored on Tuesday, December 28th, the information received on

the radio about the survivors from Car Nicobar was conveyed to their anxious relatives on the mainland.

We also helped about 15 foreign tourists, including several from the United States, send news to their families. On the request of the DC, one of our team members, VU2JOS, was sent to Huidbay Island along with other government officials for relief activity. The common man was totally happy to utilize our service and the magnitude of their satisfaction on receiving information about the welfare of their kith and kin is beyond one's imagination.

We dared not sleep in side the hotel rooms at night so we slept in the open air on the hotel lawns. Following the tsunami, tremors continued during the remaining six days of my stay and even afterwards.

Mr. Charles Harpole, K4VUD, from the USA and Mr. Henry from Sweden visited our shack during the DXpedition. Also, Mr. Charles observed our handling of emergency traffic on December 26th and left for Thailand on December 27th. I continued emergency communications until the forenoon of 1 January 2005, the day of my return to Delhi; however my team members continued in Port Blair, Nicobar, and Huidbay Islands. A few more from NIAR proceeded on January 2nd to other islands which had no other means of communication. Though we went to Andaman & Nicobar Islands for a DXpedition, the circumstances leading us to conduct emergency communications were sheer coincidence. The representatives of different media agencies including the Associated Press, Washington Post, Zee News, etc., witnessed our service to society through amateur radio in its hour of need and acknowledged the same. I am also thankful to them for spreading awareness amongst the public about amateur radio communication. The potential of amateur radio communication to bring people together has been established once again. I am proud of my team who extended all the support for the operations during the period of my stay in Port Blair. I left Port Blair with a heavy heart for the departed souls.

I am also thankful to the Government of India for permitting me to conduct the DXpedition and particularly the authorities of the Ministry of Information and Technology and the National Institute of Amateur Radio for sponsoring the DXpedition. I am also thankful to fellow hams worldwide who made the DXpedition successful

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through their individual efforts and to those who helped by handling emergency traffic.

(Accompanying photographs are courtesy of Frank Rosenkranz, DL4KQ.)

(The International DX Association [INDEXA] is a non-profit organization for the enhancement of amateur radio, worldwide peace, and friendship. Support of amateur radio DXpeditions is one of its activities. Annual memberships are \$15.00 and lifetime memberships cost \$150.00 Bill Jennings, W4UNP, is the Secretary-Treasurer of INDEXA and is a fellow member of the Carolina DX Association. For more information visit www.indexa.org or send an SASE to: Bill Jennings, W4UNP; Secretary-Treasurer INDEXA; P. O. Box 607; Rock Hill, SC 29731)

ARRL 2005 Int'l DX Contest Observations

At least a couple of times each year the Carolina DX Association encourages its members to get on the air as a group. Usually those contests are CQ Worldwide (Phone and CW) and the ARRL International DX Contest (Phone and CW). To be sure, there are times when we notify the membership to get on the air to help a VHF contest team, a Field Day team, or a NC QSO Party team. Yet, it is usually only the aforementioned contests that we encourage entries as a club and for you to submit your scores for display on the website.

I looked over the scores reported for the latest ARRL International DX contest, and made the following observations:

- ◆ Twenty members of CDXA participated in the contest and opted to submit their scores.
- ◆ Nine entrants participated in both the Phone and CW contests.
- ◆ Fifteen entrants participated in only the Phone contest.
- ◆ Fourteen entrants participated in only the CW contest.
- ◆ Of twenty-nine total contest entries, twenty-five worked at least 100 band-countries in the contest.

What can we glean from this? CW operations are still enjoyed by our membership. There is a subset of the

membership who participate in contesting—whether for the thrill of the hunt of merely to round up DXCC entities. Those who do participate stay in the hunt long enough to round up over 100 band-countries.

One of the enjoyable aspects of amateur radio is that each can seek his own interest in the hobby. Also, even in contesting, one can choose to operate for all 48 hours of the contest or merely jump in as time permits. Whether for minutes or hours on the air, your QSO is of benefit to you as well as “the other guy”. Give it a try next contest.

Welcome New Members

I most certainly was having fun at the Charlotte Hamfest—taking my early Saturday morning booth duty, talking with folks, attending Bernie McClenney’s forums, shopping for a few gadgets, and attending our annual hamfest dinner. Yet, while all that was going on eight (yessirree, that is 8) new members joined the Carolina DX Association!

All the members of CDXA welcome our new members. We look forward to being able to exchange DXing techniques with each of you. At 180+ members strong spanning North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia (oh, yes don’t forget our Italian and South African connections) there probably is not a question about amateur radio, and particularly DXing, that can’t be answered from within the membership. So, a hearty welcome to:

Bill Clark	K4WAC	Charlotte, NC
Joe Giacobello	K2XX	Floyd, VA
Gary Martek	W7DO	Blythewood, SC
David Ritter	ND4MR	North Wilkesboro, NC
Jim Schropp	K4SCH	Harrisburg, NC
Charles Small	KE4COH	Lancaster, SC
Woodie Thompson	NC4WT	Hamlet, NC

If ever cruising about Charlotte on almost any Wednesday, stop in at Shoney’s Restaurant near the corner of Woodlawn Avenue and South Boulevard for our “meeting”. Don’t be alarmed, it’s not really a meeting—rather it is a luncheon gathering providing an opportunity to exchange information on all sorts of topics. Just follow the QRM to the far side of the dining room, and you’ll find us, sure enough!

The Back Page

There has been a lot written about the Andaman/Nicobar DXpedition. Several publications have carried the personal account of Mrs. Bharathi Prasad while serving as the lead for this long-awaited DXpedition. Yet, it is possible you may have missed her account. With permission granted from INDEXA, we are able to reprint their version of Mrs. Prasad's article herein. See Page 6.

Ron Bailey, AA4S, sends along his recount of the defense of his title of 2004 winner of the **North Carolina QSO Party** as a Mobile Operator. See Page 3.

Publication of the Pileup was delayed by a week last month to allow bringing you pictures of the Charlotte Hamfest. This month coverage of a key DX forum presented by **Daily DX Editor, Bernie McClenny** is now ready for publication. A synopsis of Bernie's comments begins on Page 4.

We are happy to report that eight new members joined CDXA in the course of the Charlotte Hamfest. They are introduced on Page 9.

Upcoming Contests:

Date(s)	Event	Comments
Apr 16-17	Michigan QSO Party	See http://www.miqp.org for details
Apr 16	Holyland DX Contest	By Israel ARC See http://www.iarc.org for details
Apr 16-17	Ontario QSO Party	See http://www.odxa.on.ca/oqphome.html
Apr 20	Weeknight 40/80-Meter Sprint	New contest. By NA QRP Contest Club See: http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/sprint_0405.html

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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify K4SQR at once, please.